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2009 September Newsletter

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"A child needs a Grandparent, anybody's Grandparent, to grow a little more securely into an unfamiliar world.."

~Charles and Ann Morse



September 2009

Volume 33

Editor's Corner

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I love the topic of this newsletter. Someone once said, "*A Grandfather is someone with silver in his hair and gold in his heart*".

I have such good memories of "hanging out" with my Grandpa. Toast and jelly at his house for breakfast, "helping" him build a fence for our ponies, coming upon a rattlesnake on the road when he took a walk with me.... I thought I was quite special. I'm sure he made all the other grandkids feel the same way.

I've certainly appreciated

my Dad as a Grandpa. Most of his grandkids lived too far away for him to be able to see them much at all. However, that didn't stop him from being a Grandpa. He found kids that needed grandparents and took on the responsibility and loves them like they were his own. I would say he truly has gold in his heart.

I love being a Grammy myself. Fortunately for me, my kids have stayed close so I get the chance to be active in my grandchildren's lives. I love



watching them grow and learn. And of course all the little funny things they think up.

We would like to hear your stories, or tributes about grandparents or grandchildren that you would be willing to share with us? Send to audrey@yourlri.com

Audrey Woods

audrey@yourlri.com

**Being
grandparents
sufficiently
removes us
from the
responsibilities
so that we can
be friends.**

~Allan Frome

Are Grandparents Important?

It was Christmas night, 1948, and my mother was tucking me into bed. I was all of five years old. My mother asked me if I had enjoyed a good Christmas Day. I said "yes," but my mother

could tell that something was wrong. She asked me.

"I thought that my Grandma and Pa loved me, but they didn't give me anything for Christmas," I said, as the tears ran down my

cheeks. My mother knew at that moment that it was time for the "there really is no Santa Claus" discussion. You see, my grandparents had given me those gifts that I loved the most – my "Jimmy

Grandmas are moms with lots of frosting. Grandfathers are just antique little boys.

Boy” doll and some really pretty pajamas, but they had signed the tag: “From Santa Claus.”

When my mother explained, I replied, “I had a hunch!” I put my comforting thumb in my mouth and rolled over for a good night’s sleep. Grandpa and Grandma did love me after all.

You see, for almost my first four years of life, my mother and I had lived with Grandma and Pa Scott, while my father was in the thick of World War II in Europe. During that time period they had become my safe place, my refuge from the storms of life – and there had been one big one. My mother had become pregnant just before my father had been shipped overseas, and my brother had been born and died while my father was in the trenches. This was a very hard time for my family, with my poor mother and all of us grieving for both my father and my baby brother.

“Are Grandparents important?” you might ask. I would answer that they are – more than we realize as kids. Looking back on my years with them, tears are welling up in my eyes as I write.

For Ron, there was one important Grandfather – his Grandpa Miller. It was the one adult in his life who paid any attention to him, who seemed to care and think that Ron was worth his time, while the other adults avoided and ignored him. It was Grandpa Miller who taught him how to tie his shoes, and it was Grandpa Miller who had planted a little garden with him. But in Ron’s case, even Grandpa Miller disappointed him, and it wasn’t until years later that he discovered that Grandpa had died. No one bothered to tell him and he was sent to the movies instead of to Grandpa’s funeral.

If you would ask our daughters if Grandparents are important, you would hear both of them loudly answer yes, with great emphasis! Naomi had a special “thing” for Grandma Rockey, Ron’s mother. She was a baker, and Naomi loved to watch her do her thing in the kitchen. And Grandma Rockey seemed to favor her, perhaps because she looked more like a Rockey than

my side of the family. Sara would well up in tears talking about her Grandma Ena and her “Bumpa.”

Throughout their growing up years, time spent with their grandparents was very important to our girls. From both Grandmas they inherited a love for cooking. Whenever we were at my parents’ house (about 2 hours from where we lived) “Bumpa” would take them early on Sunday morning to have breakfast at the Corner Store. The three of them would sit up on a revolving stool for scrambled eggs, toast and orange juice, which they inhaled, and then he would give them each a quarter for the penny candy counter. What a treat! They would go to his workshop with him and pound nails or sandpaper a board – anything to be with “Bump”, they called him. There were ice cream treats at Bee Bee’s Dairy, trips to Ocean Beach for a swim and a couple of rides in the small amusement park there, and there was Campmeeting. Grandma and Bumpa would always come for a weekend and bring them a new dress or . . .



Why are Grandparents important to children?

1. **They have time and patience.** Many Grandparents are retired, and if so, have the privilege of more time to spend having fun with a grandchild. In today’s lifestyle, both parents have to work in most families. When they come home there are the ever looming chores of laundry, cleaning, meal preparation, PTA meetings, church responsibilities etc., and all too often children are left to their own devices – the modern day devices include TV, Video Games, Cell Phones and the computer and internet. In a way, these are methods of connecting but not helpful in teaching a child eye to eye



communicating and the warmth and affection that should go along with the communicating. Grandmas and Grandpas have time

to play games, to read to the children, to listen to their words and even in between the lines, so as to really get to know their grandchildren.

2. **They are constants.** Children need consistency, and the Grandparent/Grandchild relationship is usually a loving constant, unless a difficult divorce takes place and grandparents are disallowed from seeing the children. You can always count on a Grandma or Grandpa to be thrilled to see the children and affectionate and giving. Grandparents certainly should not “spoil the child” with expensive gifts, but there is no such thing as spoiling with too much love (time). Expensive gifts are simply a way of bribing the children to love them, so do beware Grandparents, of providing too much “stuff.”

I remember wanting to stay over at Grandma and Grandpa’s on Saturday nights. I would fall asleep on their bed in the guestroom, and when my parents would come to get me, I’d make believe I was still asleep so they would let me stay overnight. Then Sunday breakfast, Gram would make the best eggs and fried tomatoes and toast with jam. Was that an expensive gift from them? No. But it remains a rich memory today!

3. Letting the children stay with Grandma and Grandpa **gives Mom and Dad a break** – maybe some time for a romantic dinner at a restaurant and a night without the fear of being called out of bed. Especially in these days of working parents, Mom and Dad could use adult conversation alone, adult activities without a million questions and some much needed romance. Even a night without having to tell or read a Bedtime Story, can be a break!
4. **Children learn about what was from Grandparents.** Often the elderly like to tell sto-

ries from their childhoods to their grandchildren, and these stories help the young and the old to understand each other. Children learn what life was like many years ago, and learn why Grandparents have the work ethics and values that they hold dear.

5. **Children learn conversation skills and how to build relationships with adults.** In a busy society and families on the go, one on one conversation, and just visiting with each other seems to have disappeared. Just the other day I was explaining to our granddaughters what it used to be like when Grandpa and I were kids. Our parents had friends and extended family, who would just “pop in” for a week-end afternoon visit, and that required that Mom always had at least a dessert and beverage to serve, and often a full meal. Those were times without the TV. They were for conversation and maybe occasionally, a table game.

I fear that if you should ask our granddaughters if we were so loved and revered as our daughters grandparents were, and if they were truly honest with you, they would say, “no.” WHY?

We are not, unfortunately, like the typical old-fashioned Grandparents. We still work and have a very busy lifestyle. When our first grandson was born, we lived 2500 miles away. Oh yes, we were there for his birth – I was even in the delivery room – but our visit was only that – a visit. A week later, we had to return to our pastorate.

When our second grandson was born, we lived in the same town, and again were at the hospital and I was in the delivery room. Unfortunately however, that living situation lasted only 3 or 4 months, and we moved away. They followed, but were soon transferred to the other end of the state. Still we saw each other fairly regularly for a few years. Then a call to another pastorate 2000 miles away came, and off we went.

When our first granddaughter was born, we were in the ministry we have now, and “on the road.” We had moved to Phoenix where our Sara lived, but were seldom there, with overseas seminars and “on the road in

a bus” traveling to teach. We certainly were not constants!

When our granddaughter was about three, her parents moved – nine hours away. Soon granddaughter #2 came along, and this time we weren’t in the delivery room or in the same town. Fortunately for our daughter and son-in-law, his parents were in the town where they lived, and they became the constant grandparents. We were the once in a while grandparents, and were now 2500 miles away from Grandson #2.

So we have been constant alright – constantly on the go! Sure, our mission is an important one, but so is the mission of our grandchildren. So now, we are at least in the same town with the girls. Our grandsons are in their 20’s – grown and out of the house. We are in touch with them occasionally, but not as much as we’d like. They just plain got used to being without us.

Are we happy about this? Not at all! Do we feel guilty for not being there all the time for all of them? Sometimes yes, and other times we recognize that God’s plan for us included our ministry AND our grandchildren. And now we do have more time for them, but the question is, do they have time for us now? Do they really care?

We are praying that they will come to realize that the personal love, touch and affection the girls now receive, was always in our hearts, but our physical presence was not always able to be available. I am somewhat envious of the relationship that our girls had with their grandmas. Yes, they lived in a different time and under different circumstances, BUT, children still need “Grandma and Grandpa Love” whenever they can get it.

So if you’re a Grandma or a Grandpa, remember to be available. If you live a distance away, talk on the phone, send them notes, cards, little packages, so that you can be a constant in their life. And remember, in this day, perhaps more than in any day and age of the past, the children need your prayers.



Free DVD

An introduction to *Binding the Wounds*, and *The Journey* with a sample clip from each segment of *The Journey*.

It is great for use in explaining to someone what these programs are all about.

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Subject line— “Free Intro DVD”.



Walking With Grandma

I like to walk with Grandma.

Her steps are short like mine.

She doesn't say "Now hurry up".

She always takes her time.

I like to walk with Grandma.

Her eyes see things like mine do.

Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,

Half hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry-
they do not stop and see.

I'm glad that God made Grandma-
Unrushed and young like me.

A Grandparent's Advice

"Everyone should be a grandparent before they're a parent." I don't know who first penned this genetically impossible advice, but they're right. We grandparents have much better hindsight than foresight, and, if we could do it over again, most of us would make some adjustments. So just in case there are young parents reading this, who are wiser and more teachable than I was at their age, here is one grandparents' advice to parents:

Find a way every day to show your children that you love and believe in them. Do a lot of hugging and don't stop when they become teenagers.

Take time to know each of your children as individuals. What are their dreams and fears? What are they good at? What can you do to help them develop their own unique interests and abilities?

Set and enforce boundaries. Be willing to be the bad guy. Don't let your own guilt keep you from being tough when you must be.

Be candid about your own mistakes. Be willing to change your mind, admit wrong, and openly apologize.

Be patient. Remember that the path to success is paved with failures, and don't forget that one of the reasons kids have trouble being perfect is that they have imperfect parents.

Be accepting. Remind your children often that home is a place they can find forgiveness and new beginnings.

Remember that some opportunities come only once. Few of us grandparents feel regret because we once missed an important business meeting to spend time with a child.

Don't judge other parents or children. It will come back on you. Never say "never" (as in "My child would never do that").

Don't over-program. Leave your child room to be creative.

Begin at an early age to give children responsibility and don't be afraid to let them fail. Also don't cover for them when they do. Part of growing up is learning how to mend one's own mistakes.

Laugh a lot.

Be silly together.

Sing a lot.

Let your children know they live in a harsh world. Talk candidly of accidents and crime. Maybe let them role play how they would respond to each. Also things such as camping in the wilderness can help children develop resourcefulness and toughness.

Be concerned about the hearts and minds of children. Work on their "want-tos." If they develop a love for things that are good for them, you won't worry as much when they leave your home.

Help your children find mentors such as scout or school leaders, coaches, youth directors, summer camp counselors, and family friends (remember the times; you must do some investigating and screening on your own). Also develop your own mentors (can be your parents and grandparents) to help advise you about parenting.

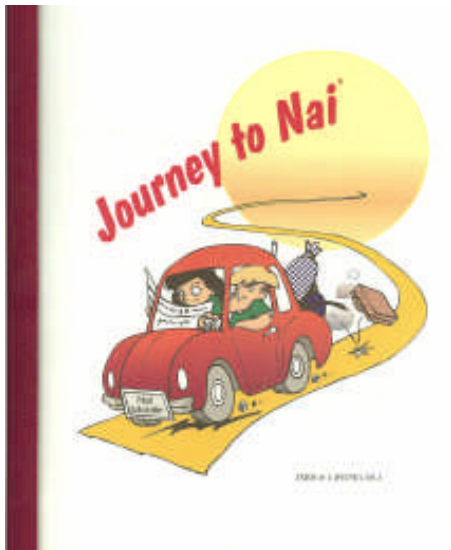
Do things to keep yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy. If you allow your children to keep you from daily exercise, alone time, or regular times away from the children with a spouse and/or friends; you will find it hard to be a good parent.

Finally, give yourself permission to really enjoy your kids. What could you do right now that would give pleasure to both you and your child? Some day you will long for such an opportunity.



From <http://www.bestyears.com/grandparentonparenting.html>

Blog address: <http://www.fixablelife.blogspot.com>



Journey to Nai

Lead teenager ages 12-18 to explore their behaviors, emotions and feelings through this 13 lesson workbook. By identifying with each of the characters in the movie "Wizard of Oz" teens can learn to deal with issues such as lack of self-esteem, anger management, addictive behaviors, guilt and shame, fears, depression and suicide, and other issues relevant to their lives.

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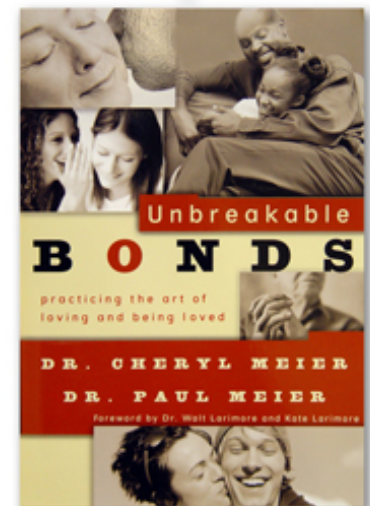
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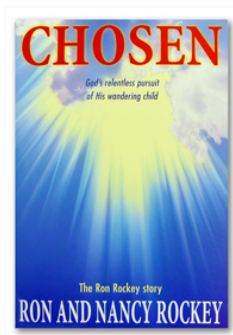
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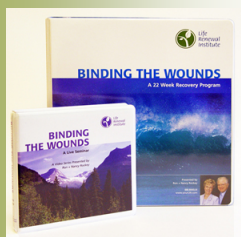
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Comments

*A friend lent me the tape series, "**Binding the Wounds**".*

There was so much of my family & myself in those tapes. Until now I thought hope was thin. I have a new expectation for healing. Thank you. ~Linda



"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the way of death."

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"What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies." ~Rudolph Giuliani

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	Bold Love - Dr. Dan Allender		\$13.99		
	Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog - Dr. Bruce Perry		\$15.95		
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	Changes That Heal - Dr Henry Cloud		\$12.99		
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	Chosen - Drs Ron and Nancy Rockey		\$12.99		
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	22 Week Small Group – BTW (English) – DVD + 2 Notebooks		\$249		
	22 Week Small Group – BTW (Spanish) – DVD + 2 Notebooks		\$249		
	Binding The Wounds – CD – audio seminar		\$99		
	Binding The Wounds – DVD – video seminar		\$199		
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	Journey to NAI – facilitator copy		\$35		
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The Journey Small Group Recovery Program - Authors Drs Ron and Nancy Rocky					
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	RING BINDERS (with purchase of The Journey Notebook)		\$0		
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